

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee
Foam Subcommittee Meeting
July 19, 2012, Amherst DPW

7/12/12 minutes approved with minor changes.

Intern Update and introduction

- Gabriel “Gabe” Owen was introduced. He is an Amherst College (AC) student helping us with the Foam project, especially with regard to internet searches. He is working this summer at AC’s Center for Community Engagement.
- Sue M and Susan W met with him Monday 7/16.

Purchasing Coop Update

- Sue M and Susan met with Richard D. Smith (Greenfield food service distributor) sales representative Janet (Jan) Soja on 7/19/12.
- She knows & works with a lot of area businesses, was not aware of local commercial composting outfits.
- She brought up point that compostable serveware is typically imported, where EPS products are often made in the U.S.
- New “Sustain a Cup” products for hot and cold drinks are compostable and are made with 25% post consumer recycled paper.
- New EPS product made with 25% recycled EPS.
- They are interested in pursuing coop purchase idea and next step is to meet with Chamber of Commerce and foam team.
- They will provide us with samples of compostable and recyclable products for our restaurant visits.

Precautionary principle

- If something is highly likely to affect health or environment, it is not logical to wait for long term study outcomes/ bona fide scientific proof before making changes to protect the public (case in point: second-hand smoke).
- Julie Federman (public health director) lent Susan a book about the principle, written by a group of scientists which have met for years to explore the principle.
- Principle will be good support during town meeting discussion.
- Cynthia knows a local retired doctor (Sue Lowry) who is/was creating a petition to ban styrene. She will contact her to ask about her plan.
- Cristina feels it is critical to supply powerful, authoritative scientific studies to support health claims. We need to avoid conjecture.

Warrant Focus

Susan explained that Martha Hanner feels that the primary argument should be avoidance of foam volume in landfills, with a secondary focus of health concerns (use, manufacture, incineration). Group feels that makes sense.

Project plan

5 major tasks to complete (assigned lead role):

1. Argument preparation (Gabe & group)
2. Prepare material for interview packet (Sue Morrello & Susan)
3. Create interview schedule (Sue Morrello) & conduct interviews (all)
4. Create public relations plan (Cynthia & Susan)
5. Prepare warrant article (Cynthia)

Other things to do:

- ✓ Confirm that restaurants on list remain foam-free (especially before ad published)
- ✓ Conduct a run-through of a restaurant visit for practice (at next meeting?). People may want to visit restaurants in pairs.

Project timeline

Before warrant submitted:

To Board of Health (??)
To Select Board (+ Town Mgr?)
To Finance Committee (if applicable)
To Town Meeting moderator

9/20 Warrant text completed, reviewed & approved by Committee
9/24 Town Meeting warrants due (does not need to be in final form)

October:

10/1 Supporting evidence collected so can create docs for TM
10/9 Final warrant wording due
10/24 Material due for first Town Meeting info packet
11/8 Material due for final Town Meeting info packet

We will aim for next official meeting on 7/30 or 7/31 to approve draft of town warrant (both Sue and Brenda available).

F/U tasks

- ✓ Sue Morrello to talk w/Alex Krough-Grabbe (Amherst Business Improvement District director).
- ✓ Sue Morrello, Gabe and Susan and to meet to flesh out interview packet ASAP.
- ✓ Cynthia to contact Pam (health department) to get on September Board of Health meeting agenda.
- ✓ Cynthia & Susan to meet by 7/31 to discuss publicity plan
- ✓ Cynthia to work on finalizing warrant
- ✓ Cynthia to schedule appointments with Select Board, etc for warrant preparation
- ✓ Cynthia to contact Dr. Sue Lowry about her involvement with styrene ban.
- ✓ All comments/concerns about bylaw draft to Cynthia by 7/29.
- ✓ Susan to email draft of bylaw to group by 7/24.
- ✓ Susan will ask a couple of doctors she knows where we might find good primary source health studies.
- ✓ Susan to ask Guilford if Town Counsel needs to review again (person who reviewed it prior has gone).
- ✓ Susan to invite Tony Maroulis (Chamber of Commerce) to next meeting + arrange next coop meeting w/Jean Sofa.
- ✓ Susan to email Nantucket ban info to group.